



## Playground Mulch

*"It's a lot safer for the kids. When they jump off the playground equipment and land on the mulch, they bounce. It's a lot more attractive too. Really makes the playgrounds stand out."*

- Ray Navarro, Director of Maintenance, Operations and Transportation, Farmersville Unified School District

**Locations:** Snowden Elementary (301 S. Farmersville Blvd.) and Hester Elementary (477 E. Ash), Farmersville, CA 93223



*Snowden Elementary  
Vendor: Sierra Mat & Rubber Company*



*Hester Elementary*

**California tires diverted from landfills:** 29,986 tires

**Overview:** The Central Valley town of Farmersville is a rural farming town with two stop lights in Tulare County. Migrant laborers comprise a large portion of the community's population.

One person who has taken a personal interest in upgrading the facilities for the children of the Farmersville Unified School District is Ray Navarro. As the Maintenance, Operations and Transportation Director for the school district and a graduate of the local schools, Mr. Navarro has overseen replacement of the playground equipment and surfaces. Up until recently, the swing sets were old pipes welded together and the surfacing was asphalt, pea gravel or sand.

Mr. Navarro applied for and received grant funding from CalRecycle to replace playground surfaces at two schools in Farmersville. Now there is shock-absorbing playground mulch made from recycled rubber beneath the play structures.